



Welcome

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division is responsible for managing the state's public wildlife resources so they may be enjoyed by all today and conserved for tomorrow. The people have placed that trust with the DNR, which in turn relies upon its Wildlife Division to lead with sound science and forward thinking. This public trust doctrine – along with dedicated funding sources established in 1937 – is at the very core of wildlife restoration and management in the United States.

This report provides an overview of the division's accomplishments, challenges and expenditures throughout the 2010 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2009, through Sept. 30, 2010). Within most sections, pie charts are used to illustrate (by funding source) the costs associated with specific activities. Appendix A provides an overview of each funding source. This report is a direct result of the Wildlife Division Strategic Plan (also known as the Guiding Principles and Strategies or GPS), which outlined our desire to clearly communicate annual accomplishments.

During this time period, the Wildlife Division's field structure was comprised of eight regional management units; collectively the management units were overseen by a field operations supervisor and each individual management unit led by a wildlife management unit supervisor. Management unit staffs include wildlife habitat biologists assigned to counties within their unit where they have public and private land responsibilities, wildlife technicians, wildlife assistants, administrative staff, and limited-term, non-career and short-term workers.

In order to provide better guidance, administrative support and technical assistance to employees in the field, centralized Wildlife Division staff members were organized into the following sections and units: the Species and Habitat Management Section; the Wildlife Research Section; the Wildlife Health Section; the Wildlife Program Support Section; and the Public Outreach and Engagement Unit. Centralized staff includes wildlife specialists, veterinarians, laboratory technicians, program and research analysts, administrative specialists, technicians, coordinators and support staff. The Wildlife Division is currently undergoing a staffing realignment, which will be reflected in the FY 2011 annual report.

Natural Resources Commission

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC conducts monthly public meetings throughout Michigan, and residents are encouraged to actively engage in these public forums.

Since a voter-approved referendum in 1996 (commonly known as proposal G), the Natural Resources Commission has exclusive authority to regulate the method and manner of take of Michigan game species. Most months, the Wildlife Division provides recommendations to the NRC related to harvest quotas, boundaries and dates along with any other necessary changes within the Wildlife Conservation Orders. Orders can be located online at www.michigan.gov/dnrlaws.



Natural Resources Commission members, from left to right: John Matonich, J.R. Richardson, Mary Brown, Hurley Coleman, Chairman Tim Nichols, John Madigan and Frank Wheatlake

Did You Know?

According to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2006 Hunting in America survey, Michigan's 752,894 hunters ranked third in the nation, spending 11.9 million days afield, trailing only Pennsylvania and Texas, resulting in \$1.33 billion in economic benefit to the state. Further, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife-Related Recreation showed that Michigan's wildlife watchers spent \$1.62 billion. National surveys measuring the economic impact of hunting and wildlife-related recreation are conducted every five years. Judging by those survey results, this industry means big business for Michigan!

In FY 2010, the Wildlife Division:

- Employed 153 permanent staff, including 38 wildlife biologists, 34 wildlife technicians, 23 wildlife assistants, 16 wildlife specialists, 16 wildlife supervisors, 13 administrative support employees, seven secretaries, five laboratory staff members and one wildlife veterinarian;
- Spent over 61,000 hours on species management and formulation of license quotas and regulation recommendations;
- Entered and analyzed more than 63,000 harvest or opinion survey responses;
- Created nine different hunting and trapping application or information digests and printed over 2.2 million total copies of all digests;
- Gave 17 presentations detailing regulation recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission;
- Helped to coordinate and host the 100th annual meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in September 2010 in Grand Rapids;
- Conducted 2,368 threatened and endangered species reviews; and
- Invested over 33,000 hours on wildlife-disease surveillance and response efforts.



Michigan ranks third in the nation in number of hunters. Hunters and wildlife watchers combined contribute \$3 billion annually to our state's economy